

Dear Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo, and Honorable Members of the Children Committee:

We are writing in SUPPORT of HB 5566, which would restrict the placement of leghold traps. And we are sorry this bill doesn't entirely ban leg hold traps.

We are registered and active voters in Stamford, Connecticut and volunteer for an animal rescue group.

We have had the unfortunate experience of finding 3 cats and one dog with a shattered leg due to leg hold traps. One of the vets we worked with on the last tame animal with a shattered hind leg said this was not at all unusual and so we wonder how many are caught in these traps and die horrible deaths. And why in God's name should this barbaric practice be acceptable for tame pets OR wildlife? And why is Connecticut, which I always thought was a more progressive state, be behind rather than up front on this issue?

The State of Connecticut should neither be condoning such cruelty nor putting our children and companion animals at such unnecessary risk. We shouldn't be allowing our wildlife to suffer in this way either. Precedent exists in eight states that restrict or ban the use of leghold and body-crushing traps: Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, Arizona, California, Colorado, and Florida. It is shameful that Connecticut is still choosing to ignore this.

We are unsettled by the provision in this bill that requires trappers to report non-target catches such as pets, as if that makes leg hold traps acceptable.

Thank you for holding a public hearing on this important matter, and we ask that when it comes up for your voting consideration, you vote in SUPPORT of HB5566.

Yours truly,

Janine and Terry Paton
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